

**PUBLIC WORKS & FACILITIES COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING  
WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 11, 2015  
TIME: 7:00 P.M.  
MUNICIPAL BUILDING  
ROOM 208  
MIDDLETOWN CONNECTICUT**

**Members Present:** Councilman Carl R. Chisem  
Councilman James B. Streeto  
Councilman Thomas Serra  
Councilwoman Sandra Russo-Driska  
Councilman David Bauer

**Staff Present:** William J. Russo, Public Works Director  
Tom Marano, Economic Development Specialist

**Others Present:** George Ryan, Middletown Resident  
John Moore, Middletown Resident  
James Lane, Middletown Resident  
Kevin McKenzie, President Assoc. of Cambridge Commons  
Steve DeMelis, Board for Cambridge Commons

Chair Chisem opened the Public Works & Facilities Commission meeting at 7:00 P.M. He requested a motion to approve the minutes dated January 21, 2015. Motion to approve the minutes was seconded and approved unanimously.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

One of the Middletown Residents, George Ryan, asked permission to use the Middletown Legion Field's parking lot for a bike event with a chili cook off and a band that was also hosted last year. The dates requested are Sunday, June 7, 2015 and Saturday, October 3, 2015. This event will raise money in George's son's name and 100% of the proceeds will go to charity. It will cost \$20.00 per person and \$30.00 per bike.

Director Russo stated that he does not have the football schedule yet, but does not have an issue with the event being held on June 7, 2015. As there are no issues with the event being held on either date, with the exception of not knowing the football schedule, a motion was made for approval. Motion was seconded and approved.

A member of the public stated that the interest is high in Middletown for disc golf. There are two premiere High School golf teams that support this along with Middlesex Community College also requesting and supporting this proposal. He suspects that for the installation of the disc golf course, not more than \$10,000.00 will have to be appropriated.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

- a. Letter from the Mayor - Westlake Park Restoration – Director Russo stated that the Mayor had asked him to include the letter regarding Westlake Park Restoration in the February Public Works & Facilities agenda. There is an abandoned park around the bike path at Westlake Park, just before

Trolley Crossing. No more than \$3,000.00 would have to be appropriated for a title search for these restorations.

Kevin McKenzie, President Association of Cambridge Commons, stated that the area just past Trolley Crossing is very overgrown. The pond is filthy along with old wooden walk ways that go over the pond are very unsafe and not up to code. The existing tennis courts are not visible due to the grass that has grown in.

A discussion was held regarding the ownership of the park, whether it is the City or the association. Councilman Streeto stated that conducting the title search would only be the first step. The next step would be to go through the General Counsel's office to figure out how to go about serving a defunct organization and who inherits the property rights.

Councilman Serra moved that the \$3,000.00 be expended for the title search. Councilman Bauer seconded the motion but requested that the General Counsel's office to give us an idea of options when moving past the title search.

Councilwoman Russo-Driska stated that she is unsure of why the \$3,000.00 needs to be spent on a title search. She believes that the title search can be conducted internally using the General Counsel's office.

Councilman Serra resent his motion of expending \$3,000.00 for a title search. When he first made his motion he was unsure that this is not a unique situation. If in fact the situation becomes complicated after the General Counsel's office conducts the title search, outside resources may then be looked into.

Councilman Serra resent his motion that the title search be conducted by the General Counsel's office. The title search report will then be reported back to the Public Works & Facilities Commission. Motion was seconded and approved unanimously. Commissioner Streeto made a friendly amendment to the motion with whether or not a real estate specialist will be needed for the transaction after the General Counsel's office conducts a report. The commission approved the amendment unanimously.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

- a. James Lane - Disc Golf Course Proposal – Director Russo introduced James Lane of the Disc Golf Association and Tom Marano, Economic Development Specialist for the City of Middletown. The Economic Development Commission has heard the presentation regarding disc golf.

It was recommended by one of the commissioners to give the disc golf proposal to the Millone and MacBroom consultants to see how they can coordinate this into the master plan.

Commissioner Russo-Driska moved approval to have a discussion with Millone & MacBroom to come up with the master plan for the disc golf proposal. Motion was seconded and approved unimously.

Commissioner Bauer stated that he would like to see this proposal be integrated into the plan. He brought up the issue with wetlands and wanted to know if it is possible to conduct disc golf on or around wetlands. It was stated that playing in a swamp is not recommended but streams and other

wet areas around the course are fine. Cutting paths on wetlands is allowed when it is for recreational purposes according to the state regulation. Consciousness of erosion control is still kept in mind.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- a. January 2015 Overtime Report – The commission reviewed the January 2015 overtime report.
- b. January 2015 Building Permits – The commission reviewed the January 2015 building permits.

**OTHER:**

- a. January 2015 Monthly Report – Highway Division – The commission reviewed the January 2015 monthly report.
- b. January 2015 Overtime Report – Parks Division – The commission reviewed the January 2015 overtime report. Director Russo stated that the department spent \$249,000.00 of the \$246,000.00 that was given for snow overtime. After speaking with Diana Doyle and Tina Gomes a conclusion regarding funds will be presented to the commission in the March commission meeting.

A pilot program was discussed regarding sand/salt and an alternative material for road treatment. Director Russo will research any costs for this material and it will be presented back to the commission on a later date.

As there was no further discussion, the Public Works & Facilities commission meeting was adjourned at 8:00 P.M.